

definite and clear and define the invention properly.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 1-5, 13, 21 and 22 as being anticipated by Matsuura et al., new Claim 23 now defines a novel and patentable combination. Applicants are disclosing and claiming a magnetic head suspension assembly wherein a tongue that is attached at one end to a load beam has an opposing free end located within the cutout of a flexure, which has narrow legs spaced from said tongue. An air bearing slider is attached to the front end of said suspension assembly and is gimballed about a load point formed at about the longitudinal center of the tongue, as illustrated in Figs. 1A, 1B and 2. By virtue of providing a free end of the tongue, the tongue can move back and forth freely along the longitudinal axis of the flexure. The attached slider pitches and rolls about the pivot point of the load dimple which is providing vertical restraint with a resultant reduction of the standard deviation of flying height. When the slider is pitching, the narrow legs or outriggers of the flexure bend. In this way, the suspension experiences low roll and pitch stiffness. The decoupling of the tension and compression in the legs of the flexure that results from bending and torsion arising from the pitch or roll of the slider provides a significant lowering of pitch and roll stiffness.

In clear contrast, Matsuura et al. do not provide a flexure which has an unattached free end that would allow movement and physical stretching in the longitudinal direction. The load beam shown in the patent is fixed at both ends and the load beams are fully constrained so that the pitch and roll stiffness is relatively high. There is no separation of the application of the load to the slider from the gimbaling action about a load dimple, as achieved by Applicants. The stiffer pitch and roll of the prior art suspension assemblies adversely affect the flying height causing undue variations with resultant problems in signal processing. The Matsuura et al. patent shows several load beams in Fig. 4 wherein the load application occurs through the gimbaling structure 240, 241. To allow proper pitch and roll the beams of the gimbaling structure must necessarily be narrow and thin with increased stress level on the beams. This problem is not present in the suspension assembly disclosed herein since there is no load applied to the narrow legs 32 and no stress problem created at the tongue 14. New Claim 23 and dependent Claims 2-5, 13, 21 and 22 define a novel suspension assembly not anticipated or made obvious by the cited patent and therefore these claims should be allowed.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 1-5, 9, 10 and 12-20 as being anticipated by Blaeser et al., the same reasons set forth above are applicable. Figs. 4-6 and 7-11 do not show a single integral planar load beam/flexure assembly, wherein a tongue having a free end is disposed between the legs of a flexure, as disclosed and claimed by Applicants. It appears that the Blaeser

et al. structure shown in Figs. 4-6 is a welded assembly and not truly a single integral planar suspension as disclosed and claimed by Applicants. The suspension illustrated in the cited patent clearly shows two sections in different planes. Furthermore, it does not appear that a defined load dimple is shown in the cited patent. In view of these distinct differences, Claim 23 and dependent Claims 2-5, 9, 10 and 12-20 should be allowed.

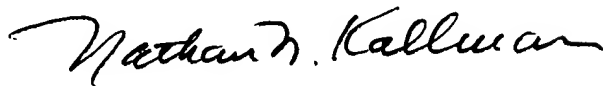
With respect to the rejection of Claim 6 and 11 as being obvious and unpatentable over Matsuura et al. or Blaeser et al., it should be noted that Applicants are not claiming dimensions as the invention per se, but are claiming the suspension assembly in combination with the specific dimensions as novel combinations which are patentable. Therefore these claims should be allowed for the same reasons set forth supra.

Similarly Claims 7, 8, 21 and 22, rejected as unpatentable over Blaeser et al. in view of Brooks, Jr. et al., should be allowed. Clearly, Blaeser et al. do not show the novel suspension assembly recited in new Claim 23, and specifically do not have a suspension assembly including a tongue with a free end within the area of a flexure cutout region. It should be noted that the Brooks, Jr. et al. patent does not describe a unitary load beam. Therefore, a combination of the two cited patents without further modification would not result in the same suspension assembly structure disclosed in the instant application.

With reference to Claim 8, Applicants again contend that they are not claiming dimensions or a change in size as an invention, but are claiming the assembly of Claim 8 in combination with the limitations of Claims 7, 2 and 23 as being patentable.

Since the application appears to be in proper form and all the claims now in the case clearly distinguish from the known prior art, an early allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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